

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki in PCT application 2002-0045046.

The gasket according to the present invention is used in a hard-disk drive that requires a decrease of outgas from the gasket and adhesive agent bonding the gasket to the top cover of the hard disk unit.

Decreasing the outgas generated from the gasket and adhesive agent is a problem peculiar to the gasket used for a precision machine, such as hard-disk drives and the like.

Such a low-outgas characteristic is not required at all for the gasket for a fuel cell as disclosed in Sasaki (2002/0045046) and the gasket for an internal combustion engine disclosed in Wilkstrom '758.

According to the present invention, there is no need to use a large amount of plasticizer in order to reduce the hardness of the gasket, so that the generation of outgas can be reduced. Therefore, erroneous operation of the hard disk due to the components of the outgas adhering to the disk can be prevented (see page 4, line 23 to page 5, line 1).

Such an advantage of the gasket according to the present invention is not disclosed nor suggested in Sasaki and/or Wilkstrom.

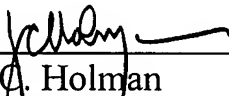
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN, PLLC

By: _____


John C. Holman
Reg. No. 22,769

400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
(202) 638-6666
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JLS/arc